

Louisiana Commission on Civic Education

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APPROVED MINUTES

November 5, 2012

I. CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Louisiana Commission on Civic Education was held on Monday, November 5, 2012 in the John J. Hainkel Jr. Room at the State Capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The chairwoman, Beth Courtney called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

The secretary called the roll and the following was noted:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Beth Courtney
Gail Brister (designee for Sen. Dorsey)
Nancy Jolly (designee for Rep. Steve Carter)
Alison Neustrom (designee for Robert Travis Scott)
Peggy Cotogno
Leslie Freeman (designee for Nancy Beben)
Barry Erwin
Brenda Hodge
Janet Pace (designee for Chris Gorman)
Polly Johnson (designee for Louise "Lou" Munson)
Malcolm Myer
Lawrence Narcisse
Jeanne Johnston (designee for Sen. Appel)
Memory Seymour (designee for Richard Hartley)
Russell Armstrong
Terry Landry
Anita Sexton
Pamela Mitchell-Wagner

MEMBERS ABSENT

John Alexander
Carolyn Hill
Fredell Butler
Rep. Patrick Jefferson

STAFF PRESENT

Sherri Breaux, Chief Legislative Researcher

Tammy Crain-Waldrop, Researcher

Tammy Cormier, Administrative Secretary

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Terry Landry made a motion to approve the minutes of April 27, 2012 and without objection the minutes were approved..

IV. BUSINESS BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

Beth Courtney opened the meeting and roll was called. Directed the committee to review the draft copy of the annual report and a vote would be taken at the end of the meeting on whether or not to approve the report.

Naomi Clark with the Secretary of State's Office came before the commission to talk about the first ever Louisiana Presidential Mock Election initiative that was completed recently. She presented a power point presentation. She described what a mock election was and stated that all students in the state were invited to participate. The students were allowed to vote through the internet using school computers which served as a voting booth. There were 280 schools participating and there were approximately 88,600 votes cast. A mock election celebration event was held at the culmination of the mock election. Each school sent one male and one female to the event with approximately 60 students actually participating in the celebration event.

Robert Lancon, a student from Iberia Parish participated in the mock election celebration representing the Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

Memory Seymour, Director of Education at the Louisiana State Museum and works on the Louisiana Bicentennial Education. Ms. Seymour provided an update on the bicentennial education activities. Presented a power point presentation. As mentioned at the April meeting, this was a 16 month event. Everyone who attended the April meeting received a copy of the Desk Reference for Educators book which is a curriculum based, content based, resource for educators. As of today there were 20,000 color copies made and we have distributed over 19,000 of them to educators across the state. We targeted 3rd, 8th, and 11th grade educators, but made the resources available to everyone. We have continued to provide bicentennial teacher workshops across the state. Ms. Seymour reviewed the different projects that have been implemented during the bicentennial involving schools around the state. In addition to the school projects a bicentennial traveling exhibit was created to keep the bicentennial alive and help to impact education through 2014. These two exhibits are traveling around to the different

libraries, museums and schools in the state along with additional educational resources.

Malcolm Myers made a motion to adopt the Commission's annual report in its draft form, to which Terry Landry seconded the motion. There being no objection the report was adopted.

Sherri Breaux, works with the Louisiana Youth Advisory Council. Gave an update on the Legislator's Back to School Program. The senate has had 1/3 of their members who have either already visited a classroom or they are scheduled to visit a classroom in the next couple of months. The senate has always ranked at the top of the list among the states who participate and feels that we will be at the top again this year. In the house there have been a number of house members who have visited classrooms thus far and we are anticipating many more to participate this year. This is due in part to the fact that one of the initiatives of the Louisiana Youth Advisory Council is to invite their senate and house members to their school classroom. The final numbers will be sent to NCSL at the end of the school year and Ms. Breaux believes we will rank in the top with both the house and the senate.

Robert Lancon and Nathan Babb both served on the Legislative Youth Advisory Council and recounted their involvement in the Legislator's Back to School Program.

Sherri Breaux introduced Robert Lancon, who is the head senior advisor for the Legislative Youth Advisory Council.

Robert Lancon and Nathan Babb gave an update on the Community Service High School Diploma Endorsement. Mr. Lancon reviewed the history behind the endorsement and the many meetings with officials and the council to draft and pass a resolution during the 2012 Regular Session. Ms. Carolyn Campbell from Baton Rouge Magnet testified to her volunteerism efforts.

Nancy Beben with the Department of Education. Ms. Beben assured the students that the department is not dropping the ball. That all the hard work they did will bear fruit. The legislation requires the department to meet with the Louisiana Serve Commission and to come up with some proposals. Dr. Jennifer Falls from the department is heading up that project. They did meet and came up with some proposals. The next step is to bring it to the superintendent's advisory council which will be meeting this Thursday.

Jason Miller, research intern for Volunteer Louisiana. Mr. Miller stated that he had been working on this project by conducting research on programs similar to this that have been executed across the country.

Ms. Courtney asked what the timeline would be for implementation. Ms. Beben stated that the goal is to start advertising it the next school year starting with the freshman class.

Sherry Breaux. Presented an update on the Louisiana Youth Issues Summit. The Legislative Youth Advisory Council partnered with the Select Committee on Women and Children. Senator Karen Carter Peterson is the chairman of that committee. Ashley Mitchell works with

Senator Peterson and will explain the purpose of the event.

Ashley Mitchell. Senator Peterson wanted to conduct the summit in order to get more student input on the issues that affect them in their school environment. We are passing legislation on behalf of the students without student input. All public high schools from across East Baton Rouge parish were invited to send 2 students to this summit. There were approximately 75 students who actually attended the summit. The students had many ideas on improving and changing things in their schools to help improve learning and their environment. Senator Peterson felt that the summit was very successful and would like to continue this effort.

Robert Lancon updated the commission on the first meeting of the new Legislative Youth Advisory Council. The new council was given an update on what the outgoing council had done with the community service endorsement. State superintendent, John White, spoke to the council on educational issues. In addition, the history channel was filming for the show "How the States Got Their Shapes" and a number of the students were interviewed for the show. The people from the history channel were very impressed with the students.

Sherri Breaux. Ms. Breaux gave an update on the Louisiana World Peace Day that was held on Sunday, September 30, 2012 in the rotunda of the state capitol. The mission is to promote awareness in the minds of all people all over the world about caring and respect for each other. To recognize and honor those who have worked and continue to work for these ideas and values. To promote widespread awareness of and increased support against violence. To recognize peacemakers, peace workers, and peace organizations that have worked and continue to work to end violence. To bring about a greater peace and well-being to communities, families, and individuals in Louisiana and across the world. This year's theme was "Children are the Future" therefore the youth of our state played the major role. Ms. Breaux presented a power point of pictures of the event.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, Malcolm Myers moved to adjourn. Without objection, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Courtney, Chairwoman